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THE 1950-1951 SCHOOL YEAR IN  
THE USSR PARTY EDUCATION SYSTEM.

The following study, based primarily on a survey of 14 Soviet republic papers and the Moscow and Leningrad press, is an attempt to present a general picture of the party system of political education in the USSR. As will be shown, there are often discrepancies between over-all general figures and more specific breakdowns for the number of persons participating. Generally speaking, however, there is enough internal consistency in figures given for the republic systems of party education to get a fairly clear idea of the number of persons formally involved--in those areas where adequate figures are given. As will be seen from the descriptions, however, information on the 1950-1951 school year for several of the republics is as yet inadequate. Where possible, an attempt is made to give figures for the 1949-1950 school year as a basis for judging the situation in the current year.

Numbers in parentheses refer to appended sources.

## INTRODUCTION

Marxist-Leninist studies for 1950-1951 in the party system of political education for the masses began on 1 October in urban areas and on 15 October in rural localities. The importance attributed to such indoctrination in the USSR is manifested by the amount of press coverage devoted to it. In all Soviet newspapers available in CIA, from mid-August to October, an increasing amount of space in editorial and "Partiyaya zhizn'" (Party Life) columns was given to party education. It was the predominant political theme in early October, until it was supplanted by the local soviet election "campaign."

The 1950 - 1951 school year continues the trends of the postwar period in party education, according to the Soviet press. The number of students, both party members and nonparty people has increased; the level of study is more advanced; and more attention is being paid to independent study by those interested.

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in Marxist-Leninist theory. In past years, the Communist masses studied in political schools, the beginning stage of political studies. Last year, the majority of party members and candidates the Short Course, History of the VKP(b) and the "classics" of Marxism-Leninism in study circles, evening party schools, universities of Marxism-Leninism, and also independently. Whereas in the 1948-1949 school year, political schools instructed about one third of the total personnel in party organizations, and circles for study of the Short Course, History of the VKP(b) taught 22 percent, in the 1949 - 1950 school year only 15 percent of the students were in political schools, while 30 percent of the total personnel of party organizations were in circles.(1) There are no over-all figures available for the total number of students now in the party education system but in the 1949 - 1950 school year, about 5 million party members and candidates studied Marxist-Leninist theory.(2) To this may be added the 5.5 million persons in the Komsomol system of political education (3) and an undetermined number of nonparty people. General statements in the press indicate a significant increase in this year's total over that of last year, and there is increased emphasis upon drawing nonparty workers, kolkhoz workers, and intelligentsia into the party education system. Failure to do this is described as one of the essential shortcomings of the 1949 - 1950 school year.(4)

#### Training of Propagandists

Serious preparations were made during the summer months for improving instruction in the party education system. By decision of the TsK VKP(b), central committees of union-republic party organizations, and oblast, kray, and city party committees set up summer courses for propagandists. In 1949 and 1950, 170,000 propagandists received this type of instruction -- 120,000 in 3-month evening courses under city party committees, without interrupting their regular work, and 50,000 rural propagandists in one-month courses under oblast committees, with leave from their regular work for full-time study.(5) In August 1950, there were 65,000 city propagandists taking 3-month courses and 25,000 rural propagandists in one-month courses.(6) By decision of the TsK VKP(b) additional 2-week full-time courses of study were set up in September under oblast and city party committees to give special training to 55,000 rural and 45,000 city propagandists. "In this way, before the beginning of the school year, 90 percent of all nonstaff propagandists in the system of party education received training and retraining in these courses."(5) The distinction between "nonstaff" and "staff" propagandists appears to be that the latter are attached to rayon and higher party committees and are the "basic nucleus" of propagandists "who have party-political training, i.e., who have completed studies in the Higher Party School under the TsK VKP(b) 2-year oblast, kray, or republic party schools, party courses, or universities of Marxism-Leninism,"(4) while, it is indicated in the press, "nonstaff" propagandists, aided and directed by "staff" propagandists, lead political schools and circles under primary party organizations. All propagandists are approved by the next higher party committee than the one to which they are attached. In all, there were over 320,000 propagandists in the system of party education in the 1949 - 1950 school year (4), and the number is claimed to have increased this year, while simultaneously the quality of propagandist personnel is said to have improved.

Special training for propagandists does not end with the beginning of the school year. In addition to conducting their circles and political schools, they are expected to attend regular seminars for propagandists throughout the school year. A new study plan for these 2-year seminars has been prepared by the Agitation and Propaganda Section of the TsK VKP(b). Leaders of political schools in cities are expected to attend 10 or 11 classes of 4 hours each in the course of the school year, while rural propagandists heading political schools are to attend seven or eight 6-hour classes. City propagandists who lead circles for study of the Short Course, History of the VKP(b) and biographies of Lenin and Stalin are to attend 11 to 13 classes of 4 hours each; rural leaders of circles are to attend seven to nine 6-hour classes. In these seminars, besides hearing lectures, it is recommended that propagandists read reports and papers on the works and on individual questions of Marxist-Leninist theory.(7)

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Seminars for propagandists who lead political schools will concentrate on "the Lenin-Stalin theory of imperialism and socialist revolution, the struggle of the Soviet people under the leadership of the Bolshevik Party for the building of socialist society, and V. I. Lenin and I. V. Stalin on the paths of transition from socialism to communism." Literature recommended for study by these propagandists includes Lenin's Imperialism as the Highest Stage of Capitalism and State and Revolution and Stalin's The October Revolution and Tactics of Russian Communists, Once More on Social-Democratic Trends in Our Party, Foundations of Leninism, and Report at the Eighteenth Party Congress on the Work of the TsK VKP(b).(7)

Seminars for leaders of circles will devote their attention to "dialectical materialism -- the world outlook of the Communist Party; Lenin's and Stalin's further development of the theoretical bases of the Bolshevik Party; and Comrade Stalin's further development of dialectical and historical materialism in his work on 'Marxism and Questions of Linguistics.'" Literature recommended for these propagandists includes Lenin's Materialism and Empirio-criticism, Imperialism as the Highest Stage of Capitalism, On the Slogan of the United States of Europe, and Economics and Politics in the Epoch of the Dictatorship of the Proletariat, and Stalin's Dialectical and Historical Materialism, The October Revolution and Tactics of Russian Communists, The International Character of the October Revolution, Foundations of Leninism, Problems of Leninism, The Plan of the USSR Constitution, and The Great Fatherland War of the Soviet Union. In all seminars for propagandists, lectures will be given on Stalin's recent writings on linguistics, "a new outstanding contribution to the treasure house of Leninism." (7)

Besides lectures and reports on Marxist-Leninist theory, considerable attention is devoted to methodology. Lectures are given on how to conduct political studies, and what visual, literary, and artistic aids are to be utilized; also, much emphasis is placed on exchange of experiences among the propagandists.

#### LEVELS OF PARTY EDUCATION

The party education system includes the following levels of instruction, from elementary to most advanced.

##### General-education Schools

General-education schools are set up under primary party organizations for illiterate and semiliterate party members and nonparty people who do not have enough education to participate in the party education system. In non-Russian areas, instruction in these schools is conducted in both Russian and the students' native language. (8) No actual Marxist-Leninist study is undertaken in general-education schools under primary party organizations.

##### Political Schools

The basic political school meets for about 1½ hours each week for 9 months; the 2-year course deals with the social and state order of the USSR, problems of the postwar Five-Year Plan, and the party rules. To aid propagandists and students in following the study plan set up by the Agitation and Propaganda Section of the TsK VKP(b), the Pravda Publishing House has published study aids for political schools for the new school year. The first part, recommended for first-year students in political schools, contains materials on: "How Workers and Peasants in Tsarist Russia Lived and Struggled for Freedom; The Great October Socialist Revolution; Construction of Socialist Society in the USSR; The USSR and the Capitalist World; The Great Fatherland War of the Soviet Union; Soviet Socialist Society; and the Socialist State." The second part, recommended for second-year students, contains materials on: "The United Family of Soviet Peoples; The

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VKP(b) -- the Leading and Directing Force of Soviet Society; How the VKP(b) Was Built Up; The Soviet Union -- the Bulwark of Peace, Democracy, and Socialism: The Soviet People in the Struggle for the Restoration and Development of the National Economy of the USSR; and Our Goal -- Communism."(9)

#### Circles

Persons who complete the political school course, along with others similarly qualified, go on to study at the next higher level under the primary party organization -- the 2-year circles for the study of the Short Course, History of the VKP(b) and the biographies of Lenin and Stalin. Circles for study of the Short Course receive most attention in the Soviet press and appear to occupy the largest segment of students in the party education system. They follow a study plan based on that set up by the TsK VKP(b) in 1938, at the time of publication of the Short Course, whereby the chapters of the book are covered in a given time and certain prescribed supplementary reading is done. In recent years, circles "of a higher type" have been established for more advanced study of party history, in which the "classics" of Marxism-Leninism are also studied. The study plan for circles prescribed by the Agitation and Propaganda Section of the TsK VKP(b) differentiates between the 2 types of circles and includes an appended list of the works of Marx, Lenin, and Stalin for circles of the higher type.(9) Circles for study of the biographies of Lenin and Stalin are generally described in the press as being on a level with the basic circles for study of the Short Course and use the official "Short Biographies" and supplementary reading in their work.

Political schools and circles under primary party organizations differ from more advanced schools under rayon and higher party committees in that there are no final examinations. Instead, it is expected that they complete the plans set up for them by the Agitation and Propaganda Section of the TsK VKP(b) and then conduct a series of "final studies" (itogovyye zanyatiya) to sum up the basic points of the over-all study plans. Final studies in the party education system are not examinations; rather, they should be "vital, well-developed chats between the propagandists and their students."(10)

No specific reason is given for absence of conventional examinations after a year of political study. From general indications in the press it may be that nonstaff propagandists may not be considered qualified to give formal examinations. Also frequently reported absences of students might preclude their being prepared to pass such examinations.

#### Independent Study

Basic indoctrination provided by political schools and circles is necessary for those party and nonparty people who are unable to continue their formal party education in higher party schools but who wish, or are constrained, to continue in the "best and most important form of political indoctrination" -- independent study of Marxist-Leninist theory.(11) This aspect of party education has received increased emphasis in recent years in the Soviet press. Independent students work with the aid of individual study plans, set up in accord with the program prescribed by the TsK VKP(b), and are guided by consultants who have background and training similar to that of propagandists. There are staff and nonstaff consultants working under party committees and primary party organizations respectively. Seminars are conducted for them, and party organizations give direction to and exert control over their activities. In the 1950 - 1951 school year, 4-hour seminars for consultants are to be held twice a month and are to include lectures on: work with persons independently studying books -- writing reports, abstracts, etc.; work methods for consultants of those independently studying Marxist-Leninist theory; methods of holding consultations and theoretical discussions; and conduct of final theoretical discussions; with independent students.

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Ideally, a consultant is in charge of five to eight students. He has individual or group consultations with them to direct their studies and ascertain their knowledge. He is warned that an individual approach must be taken with every student, and that he must achieve control through the assistance he renders the student. When the consultee finishes one subject, the consultant conducts final studies with him to ascertain his knowledge, generalize his experience, and make plans for further study. For several students at the same level, group consultations and seminars are considered valuable aids in conducting independent studies.(13)

Control over independent study -- as it is exercised by the consultant over his students and by the party organization through its consultants -- is often referred to in the press. "Political self-education requires daily, concrete direction from party organizations. Systematic work with consultants and close control over the content of studies is necessary."(14) Although he plays an important guiding role in independent studies, "it would be incorrect to turn over control of political self-education to the consultant. Such an irresponsible attitude toward political studies can bring nothing but harm."(15) The success of political self-education depends on "how well the party committee organizes control over independent study. Aid to Communists in choosing study subjects, in formulating individual study plans; regular control during the school year in seeing that each student fulfills his plan; daily aid in work on books -- all these are important duties of party organizations."(7) By this close control, party organizations make sure that study and discussion of Marxist-Leninist theory at the lowest level do not get out of hand.

#### Evening Universities of Marxism-Leninism

For more advanced formal study of Marxist-Leninist theory there are evening universities of Marxism-Leninism in larger cities throughout the USSR. Students include party, Komsomol, and soviet workers; directors and technical workers of enterprises; and the intelligentsia -- scientists, artists, teachers, doctors, etc. In the 1949 - 1950 school year, there were over 135,000 students in these evening universities.(16) Applicants must have at least complete secondary education, they apply for admission at local party organizations or in the Agitation and Propaganda Sections of rayon party committees. The period of instruction is 2 years; classes begin about 1 September and are held twice a week for four academic hours a week; the cost is 150 rubles a year.(17) There are entrance examinations on the history of the VKP(b), based on the Short Course as a whole.(18)

In the first year, students study the history of the VKP(b), history of the USSR, foreign policy of the USSR, and the contemporary international situation; in the second year they concentrate on dialectical and historical materialism and political economy.(19) Ability to study independently is stressed, since seminars figure prominently along with lectures. Instructors are leading party workers and professors and instructors from local higher educational institutions; they must give individual attention to students and conduct group consultations.(16)

#### Lectures and Other Aids for Party Education

To aid students of Marxist-Leninist theory, particularly those studying independently and in evening universities of Marxism-Leninism, an extensive program of lectures is conducted under party and government auspices. The All-Union Society for the Dissemination of Political and Scientific Knowledge and its branches enlist prominent professors, experts, and leading party officials to give party lectures on various subjects. It also publishes lectures. Subscriptions are now being taken for three series of lectures to be published in 1951, the first of which includes 100 lectures on "the classics" of Marxism-Leninism, history of the VKP(b), history of the USSR, philosophy, economics, international life, state and law, pedagogy, military science, literature, and art.(20)

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In addition to the society there are lecture groups under party organizations which conduct extensive series of lectures on political subjects. To aid persons in political schools and circles, as well as independent students and those in evening universities of Marxism-Leninism, the newspapers publish "Consultation" and "Aids to the Propagandist" columns, and there is a wealth of periodical material. The Agitation and Propaganda Section of the TsK VKP(b) has just begun publication of a new educational-methodological journal, Partynoye prosveshcheniye (Party Education), for propagandists, consultants, lecturers, teachers in rayon evening party schools and evening universities of Marxism-Leninism, and for those studying independently. Another aid to political study is the "partkabinet" (party study room) under primary party organizations and higher party committees. In the partkabinet, propagandists, consultants, and students hold some of their political school and circle meetings seminars, and consultations and find necessary literature and visual aids for study and instruction. A qualified director is on duty to aid persons in selecting the materials they need. The individual student and propagandist in the party education system appears to suffer from no dearth of assistance and direction in his study of Marxist-Leninist theory, at least in the more populous areas.

#### Evening Party Schools

For continuing political indoctrination and practical methodological training of party, soviet, and trade-union functionaries there are party schools at all levels from the rayon committee up to the TsK VKP(b). The 2-year evening party schools under rayon, city, and large primary organization committees are set up basically for party, soviet, and trade-union officials, "in particular for secretaries of primary party organizations." (21) and meet for 4 hours a week (one or two evenings) over an 8-month period. Their study plan is also prescribed by the Agitation and Propaganda Section of the TsK VKP(b) and deals with party history, geography of the USSR and the world, the postwar Five-Year Plan, and the structure of the party and the Soviet state.(22)

#### Two-Year Party Schools

Rayon and city party and soviet officials, staff propagandists, and newspaper editors, in turn, receive political and leadership training in 2-year party schools under oblast and kray committees and higher party schools under central committees of union republic party organizations. In the Ukraine, for instance, applicants must be under 40 and must have experience in directing party and soviet work. In the Higher Party School under the TsK KP(b) of the Ukraine, students must have complete secondary education; in the Kiev Oblast Two-Year Party School, students "as a rule" have complete secondary education.

Candidates to both schools are selected by oblast, city, and rayon committees in that order and, lastly, by personal application of party members who wish to enter the schools. Those who apply for the Higher Party School must take entrance examinations in Russian and Ukrainian, USSR history, secondary school general geography, and principles of Marxism-Leninism on the level of that taught in higher educational institutions. Those who apply for the Oblast Two-Year Party School take examinations in Russian and Ukrainian, the Constitution of the USSR, secondary school general geography, and the Short Course, History of the VKP(b). Applicants for the Higher Party School are allowed 2 months and those for the Oblast Party School are allowed one month of leave with pay from their place of work to prepare for entrance examinations.(23) In addition to these 2-year programs, there are 9-month refresher courses for persons with adequate background who hold similar party or soviet positions; 10-day seminars are conducted for other such officials to keep them abreast of current developments, to exchange experiences, and to discuss problems of ideology and culture.(24)

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Higher Party School Under the TsK VKP(b)

For party and soviet officials, propagandists, and journalists working at the union-republic, oblast, and kray level, the TsK VKP(b) conducts a 3-year Higher Party School. Applications to the Higher Party School and to its correspondence division were accepted from 15 May to 15 June 1950. Applicants had to be party members under 40 with complete secondary education and leadership experience in party, soviet, or newspaper work. Students are generally recommended by oblast and kray committees of the party but in some cases may make personal application. There were entrance examinations from 15 July to 1 August 1950 in the Russian language, USSR history, secondary-school-level geography, and higher educational-institution-level principles of Marxism-Leninism. Applicants are relieved from their regular work with pay for 2 months to study for these examinations. Those entering the Higher Party School take the examinations in Moscow; those entering the correspondence division take the examinations in divisions and consultation points under oblast and kray committees and union-republic central committees of the party. Party committees must have submitted lists of applicants and their qualifications to the Higher Party School Rector's office before 15 June while individual applicants submitted their own records.(25)

Academy of the Social Sciences Under the TsK VKP(b)

The top-ranking party theoretical school is the 3-year Academy of Social Sciences under the TsK VKP(b) (26) which trains people in Marxist-Leninist theory for work in all-union, union-republic, oblast, and kray party organizations, teachers of Marxism-Leninism in higher educational institutions, and writers and editors of scientific and political publications. In addition to the 3-year course, there are 9-month refresher courses. Instruction is provided by high-ranking party officials and prominent professors and theorists of the USSR. Applications for admission are submitted to the Agitation and Propaganda Section of the TsK VKP(b).

No over-all figures have been given for current attendance in schools for party and soviet cadres; but "since 1946, 25,000 people have completed the Academy of Social Sciences, the Higher Party School under the TsK VKP(b), republic, kray, and oblast party schools, and 26,000 have taken year [sic, there are very few references to "year" courses] and 9-month courses under these schools. [In addition,] over 120,000 persons have gone through evening universities of Marxism-Leninism, and about 300,000 have completed work in 2-year rayon evening party schools." (5) These figures indicate that the preponderant proportion of students in party education are studying at lower levels -- in general-education schools, political schools and circles, and independently, since there were less than 500,000 in party education at the rayon level and above over a period of 4 years, while in 1949 - 1950 alone there were over 5 million people studying Marxist-Leninist theory.(2)

**THE BEGINNING OF THE SCHOOL YEAR**

Throughout the summer, party education was intermittently discussed, work of the past year was criticized, and preparations for the new school year were made by party organizations. The school year in evening universities and in higher party schools usually begins about 1 September; in general-education schools, political schools, and circles, and for those studying independently, studies begin on 1 October in urban and 15 October in rural areas.

Manning the system of party education is carried out by party organizations. Secretaries of primary party organizations, aided by propagandists and workers of rayon committees, decide how each person will study. "An individual approach is necessary, in order to discover the qualifications of the student. Secretaries

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of party organizations, together with propagandists, must talk with every Communist in order to determine what he should study." (27) The bureau of the rayon party committee then approves the assignments of students. The individual approach is not always made, however. In one Moscow primary party organization, for instance, "all Communists, with no account of their background, were assigned to independent study. To aid them there was only one consultant for 20 to 25 students. The rayon party committee explained the error of this decision and reviewed the background of every Communist." As a result, some of them were assigned to political schools and circles, and the number of independent students per consultant was reduced to five or eight. (28)

The rayon party committee defines the forms of political study of the party "aktiv" and checks on their progress. Secretaries of primary organizations and rayon committee workers study in evening universities of Marxism-Leninism, evening party schools, and in correspondence divisions of higher party schools according to individual study plans. (29)

Preparations for the school year in party education are only the beginning, however, for the rayon committee. It must continually direct propaganda and control its quality. Rayon committee members and workers and the party aktiv must visit beginning classes in political schools and circles and discuss their subsequent work at meetings of the rayon committee bureau. In addition, the committee must conduct regular seminars and individual consultations for propagandists. (30)

The oblast party committee strengthens its control over the course of studies in the system of party education by rendering on-the-spot aid to party organizations. It also holds regular meetings for secretaries of rayon party committees, propagandists, consultants, and leaders of circles. (31) In the new school year, serious attempts are to be made to establish normal study conditions. Party organizations are called upon to show daily concern for good discipline at all levels of party education, so that all Communists will begin to work seriously from the first day of studies. (4)

Certain criticisms of party education work in the past year are constantly reiterated in the press with a view to preventing their recurrence in the present year. The most common of these are: poor attendance and failure to complete study plans; failure to assign students to the proper level of study -- some are assigned to too advanced studies, some are held back to repeat studies they have previously completed; poor selection of and control over the work of propagandists, with resulting low ideological content and formalism in the conduct of their work; and unsatisfactory selection and direction of consultants and control over independent study of Marxism-Leninism. Reports from various parts of the USSR indicate that party organizations are not adequately responding to these and other criticisms of their past and present direction of party education.

#### PARTICIPATION IN PARTY EDUCATION

Descriptions of the work of party education systems in the various republics, together with available general figures and criticisms follow. No information is available on the Turkmen SSR.

##### RSFSR

##### 1. Moscow

This year, it is claimed there are about 350,000 students in the party education system in the city of Moscow (no figures are given for the entire oblast),

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10,000 more than last year. To direct their studies, there are 38,000 propagandists, 4,000 of them new. Of these propagandists, 70 percent have higher education, and over two thirds of them have over 3 years' experience.(32) One in every ten party members of the Moscow city party organization is reported to be engaged in "active propagandist work." In addition to these, there are reportedly 10,000 consultants and leaders of seminars.(33)

Total figures for the 1950 - 1951 year are not as yet broken down into exact numbers however, those for the 1949 - 1950 school year indicated that of the 340,000 Communists then in the party education system 27,000 were in political schools, one third about 114,000 were in basic circles for study of the Short Course, over 18,000 studied in circles for biographies of Lenin and Stalin, about 9,000 were included in higher type circles for study of party history, over 30 percent about 102,000 studied independently and in the Evening University of Marxism-Leninism and its affiliates, and 8,000 were in evening party schools under rayon committees and party committees of large enterprises.(32) The above figures total about 278,000, as contrasted with the announced total of 340,000. It seems unlikely that the remaining approximately 62,000 students would all be included in the Moscow Oblast and TsK VKP(b) Higher Party Schools and the Academy of Social Sciences under the TsK VKP(b). Even if an estimated 48,000 propagandists and consultants were subtracted from this 62,000, there would still seem to be a sizeable discrepancy, particularly when the 340,000 figure refers to "Communists" and does not mention nonparty people.

Available figures indicate that there are about 22,500 (2 1/2 times the number of last year) students in higher-type circles for the study of party history (33); 10,000 persons in the 102 evening party schools under rayon committees and large enterprises (34); and over 17,000 persons in the Moscow Evening University of Marxism-Leninism and its 25 affiliates.(35) Affiliates positively identified are: Those under the Ministries of Agriculture, Trade (36), Foreign Trade, Transportation (37), State Farms, Cinematography (38), and the Coal Industry (39); GOSSNAB (State Committee of the Council of Ministers USSR for Material and Technical Supply of the National Economy) (36); Glavpoligrafizdat (Main Administration for Printing and Publishing Affairs) (39); those under the Baumanskiy, Kiyevskiy, Timiryazevskiy (38), and Krasnopresnenskiy (39) rayon party committees of the city; those affiliates in the Central Club of Art Workers (40); the Savants' Club (41), and the Club for Scientific Workers (37). In several of these affiliates, there were more applications than places available.

No indication has yet appeared in the press as to how well the school year is going in Moscow or whether the poor attendance of the past year is recurring in such places as Zheleznodorozhnyy and Leningradskiy rayons where more than 10 percent of the Communists dropped out of political schools and circles before the end of the last school year.(42) But it is clear that the increase of 10,000 in the Moscow city party education system does not approach the 25,000 party members and candidates who were not drawn into political studies in 1949-1950.(42)

## 2. Leningrad Oblast

In political schools and circles of Leningrad Oblast the article does not specify Leningrad Oblast, but the figures indicate that more than just the city is included/ 200,000 Communists and about 110,000 nonparty people began their studies this year. Over 86,000 party members and candidates and "tens of thousands" of nonparty people are enrolled for independent study.(43) "About half of all Leningrad Oblast Communists are studying independently." (44)

No total figure for propagandists has been given this year, but there were 17,000 party members serving as propagandists in political schools and circles and as consultants last year, about 1,300 of them leading workers of

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the party and state apparatus. During the past summer, 243 rural propagandists took one-month courses; more than half of them worked in remote villages, timber managements, and also on vessels of the Baltic Steamship Line which are constantly on long voyages. Some 1,526 propagandists took 3-month courses for city propagandists.(6) In addition, 3,000 leaders of political schools and circles, including 449 rural propagandists, received training in 2-week courses in September under the oblast and city party committees.(45) The city party committee's Evening University of Marxism-Leninism, in its sixth year of operation, and its affiliates have 8,000 students.(46) There are affiliates under Leningrad State University imeni A. A. Zhdanov, the Architects' Club, the Teachers' Club, the Art Club, the Medical Workers' Club, and the Savants' Club.(17) The oblast 2-year party school, established in 1946, has graduated 570 students, 293 of them last year. Of these, 176 went to supervisory party work, 47 to soviet positions, 30 to Komsomol work, and 40 to newspaper work.(47)

Information on party education in the rest of the RSFSR is scattered and inconclusive. In Voronezh, Rostov, and Molotov oblasts, the number of nonparty people in the party education system has increased to twice that of last year. In Pskov Oblast, there are political schools and circles in 170 kolkhoz party organizations compared to the 25 which had them last year. In the Buryat-Mongol ASSR and in Gor'kiy, Murmansk, and other oblasts there is criticism of the work in manning the party education system. Attendance in these areas and in Veli-kiye Luki and Kirov oblasts was low.(48)

In Kuybyshev Oblast the new school year is better organized and on a higher ideological level than last year, as a result of more work by party organizations in selection and training of propagandists and in correct assignment of students in the party education system. Among the propagandists there are 536 secretaries of primary organizations. During the summer, 3,636 propagandists were trained in one-month and 2-week courses under the oblast committee and in 3-month courses under city committees. Last year, a majority of Communists studied in political schools; this year, more are in circles for study of the Short Course and biographies of Lenin and Stalin. The number of circles which work with the "classics" of Marxism-Leninism has increased from 102 to 673. In evening universities of Marxism-Leninism in the cities of Kuybyshev and Syzran' there are 1,700 students. In evening party schools of Kuybyshev Oblast there are 2,000 students. Many more students are engaged in independent study this year than last year.(48)

The Chelyabinsk Evening University of Marxism-Leninism and its six affiliates -- two of them for secondary school teachers and scientific workers of higher educational institutions -- had many more applications than there were vacancies.(49) Over 400 students heard first lectures in the Vladivostok Evening University of Marxism-Leninism and its branches in the cities of Voroshilov, Artem, and Suchan.(46) Since the end of the war, the Stalingrad Evening University of Marxism-Leninism has graduated 1,500 party and soviet workers. This year, there are 300 students in the first course, and three rayon affiliates have opened under the Traktorozavodskiy, Kirovskiy, and Krasnoarmeyskiy rayon party committees.(50) In Ryazan' Oblast, 300 rural propagandists took one-month courses under the oblast party committee, 540 rural propagandists took 2-week courses in September, and "many" city propagandists took 3-month and 2-week courses.(51) Schools were started and ready for the opening of the school year in the city of Ryazan'; the number of students interested in independent study has increased; there are five times as many higher-type circles as there were last year; and all circles and political schools will have propagandists.(52) In Ivanovo, in August, 144 party and soviet workers of Ivanovo, Vladimir, and Yaroslavl' oblasts graduated from the Ivanovo Oblast Party School; and in Chkalov, 66 party and soviet workers were the third class to graduate from the Oblast Two-year Party School, where a 10-month course also concluded its work.(52)

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Armenian SSR

No over-all figures are given for current participation in party education in the Armenian SSR, but in 1949 - 1950 there were more than 50,000.(53) In 1949 - 1950, there were 2,771 propagandists heading political schools and circles. All of them had higher or secondary education, and a majority had over 3 years' propagandist experience. In the summer of 1950, 257 rural propagandists completed one-month courses under the central committee of the Armenian party organization (54); and 440 rural propagandists, who had no such training in 1949 - 1950, took 2-week courses under the republic central committee.(55)

Last year, 14,777 persons studied "the fundamentals of Marxism-Leninism independently," with the aid of 1,828 consultants (56), a ratio far lower than the ideal arrangement of one consultant for five to eight students.

In Yerevan the party education system has "expanded considerably." Some 639 propagandists were selected and approved, 86 percent of whom had "higher and unfinished secondary education." During the summer, 170 propagandists finished 3-month courses, and 130 took 2-week courses.(57) The 3-month courses did not go so well. The ideological level was low, and attendance was poor. Of the 123 propagandists who were to meet once each week, 41 were absent from the 28 July classes, and 25-30 were absent from six other sessions.(58)

The Yerevan Evening University of Marxism-Leninism has accepted 7,000 students this year (57), including 1,250 party and soviet workers, engineers, doctors, teachers, and scientific workers in the first course.(59) The Yerevan Evening University is regarded as a very important means of strengthening the "ideological front" of Armenian intellectuals whom the TsK VKP(b) criticized earlier in 1950 for idealizing the Armenian past and neglecting the Soviet period.(60)

In Yerevan, there are also 6,138 party members and candidates studying Marxist-Leninist theory independently.(57)

In Leninakan, the new school year in party education was reported well planned. Last year, there were 4,415 Communists and 460 Komsomols and non-party people studying. Shortcomings of last year were discussed at meetings of primary party organizations and at plenums of the city committee. It was noted that there was too formalistic an attitude toward enrolling students in the system, and students often were not consulted nor their political knowledge ascertained before they were assigned. This year, there are over 4,000 Communists in party education. Last year, 600 Communists finished their study of the biographies of Lenin and Stalin; this year, 635 are studying the biographies in 47 circles.(55) In the Evening University of Marxism-Leninism, there are 250 party and soviet workers and representatives of the intelligentsia in the first class.(55)

Azerbaijani SSR

In the 1949 - 1950 school year, 101,000 party members and candidates studied in the party education system of the Azerbaijan SSR. Besides these there were 18,000 nonparty members in circles and political schools.(61) There were 6,447 propagandists for political schools and circles, and 1,463 "propagandists" [sic; why not consultants?] to aid independent students of Marxism-Leninism. A majority of party cadres took part in political studies. Political schools and circles generally did well -- 5,182 out of 5,432 completed their study plans. Independent study was reported to be the weakest aspect of party education, although 17,500 Communists were thus engaged.(62) It was noted that not enough women were drawn into party education, either

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as students or as propagandists.(63) During September 1950, 263 rural propagandists took 2-week courses under the TsK KP(b) of Azerbaydzhan, and 164 took similar courses under the oblast party committees of the Nakhichevan ASSR and Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Oblast. A second series of courses for rural propagandists under the Republic Central Committee began on 24 September.(64) No over-all figures for the current year have yet been given on Azerbaydzhan.

Party education in the city of Baku was given fairly complete coverage through the summer of 1950. In the 1949 - 1950 school year, 44,652 party members participated in the Baku system of party education: 28,596 in political schools and circles and; 16,056 studying independently. (On 1 July 1950, there were 47,740 Communists in Baku" 44,765 members and 2,975 candidates. There were 1,866 primary party organizations.) For propagandist work, 2,937 Communists were selected, more than 60 percent of whom have higher and incomplete higher education. Some 500 leaders of circles and political schools took 3-month courses under the Baku city committee last summer. Last year, "9,186 Communists finished their study of the Short Course, and 8,156 studied the biography of Stalin" [sic]. Some 147 circles did not complete their programs, and consultation for independent students was generally poor. In the first half of 1950, 2,086 lectures were given to 239,000 persons.(65)

In September, 360 leaders of political schools and circles received training in 2-week courses held in the Propagandists' and Agitators' Club imeni S. M. Kirov under the Baku City Committee.(66)

On 15 September, studies began in the Baku Evening University of Marxism-Leninism. The Baku Evening University, established in 1945, has steadily increased in size every year thereafter, it was reported. The first class had 65 students; in 1950, 350 graduated. In the 1945 - 1946 school year, there were 400 students in the whole university; in 1949 - 1950, there were 1,200; this year there are 1,500 students, 800 of whom are in the first course. Seventy percent of the students have higher education. There are many scientific workers among the students, and this year a special scientific section has been set up which will include 150 students, 80 of them candidates and doctors of science. A special section for medical workers includes 280 students. Fourteen lectures are to be given, and 65 seminar groups have been set up. The chief criticism of the Baku Evening University has been that not enough soviet and administrative personnel, especially chairmen of rayon soviet executive committees, administrators of trusts, and workers in ministries, have been included.(67)

The whole Baku system of party education was thoroughly discussed, criticisms were made, and recommendations given by the September plenary meetings of the Baku city party committee.(68) Generally the press commented on the effective preparation and organization with which the school year opened.

#### Belorussian SSR

Over 300,000 persons are engaged in political study in the Belorussian SSR, almost twice the number of last year. There are about 3,000 political schools, many of them under kolkhoz party organizations; over 3,500 circles for study of party history, 760 of them of the higher type; about 2,000 circles for study of the biographies of Lenin and Stalin; and over 200 rayon evening party schools. In cities and rayons, there are "about 200 general-education schools for "party members and candidates who do not have elementary [sic] education." In 12 evening universities of Marxism-Leninism, about 6,000 persons were accepted, 2,000 more than last year. For those who have completed higher-type circles and evening universities of Marxism-Leninism, circles for study of dialectical and historical materialism and political economy have been set up. In Minsk, there are 87 circles for study of philosophy. (69)

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Total figures for the number of propagandists trained vary considerably. Pravda, 2 October 1950, carried an article by T. Gorbunov, Secretary, TsK KP(b) of Belorussia, in which he claimed that 6,327 propagandists were trained during the summer in Minsk and oblast centers, six times the number of last year. Sovetskaya Belorussiya was more conservative in its report that 2,000 city propagandists took 3-month courses under city committees, 1,000 rural propagandists took 1-month full-time courses under oblast committees, and 322 leaders of propagandist seminars took summer courses under the republic central committee.(70) The remaining 3,000 propagandists reported in Pravda could hardly have all been trained in September 2-week courses. No total figures for the number of propagandists this year is given, but last year there were 12,000 party members directing political schools, circles, seminars, and in lecture and consultation work.(71)

In Minsk, over 40,000 persons are engaged in political education, 23,000 of them nonparty people. The number of nonparty students participating in party education is three times that of last year (69), while the total increase over last year in party education is 4,500. There are 298 political schools, 227 circles for study of the biographies of Lenin and Stalin, 710 circles for study of party history, 7 evening party schools, 5 seminars for city and rayon party aktiv, 72 circles and seminars on political economy, 30 seminars on philosophy, and evening university of Marxism-Leninism, and 136 beginning Komsomol circles. Over 8,000 persons are studying independently.(72)

Studies in the Minsk Evening University of Marxism-Leninism began in September for 1,000 students in the first-year course and 700 in the second. Last year there were 1,500 students in all. Several affiliates of the Minsk Evening University have been set up in the Polytechnical Institute, in the Medical Institute, in the "House of Party Education," at the Belorussian State University, at the railroad center, and at the automobile and tractor plants. Of 32 professors, 15 have doctor or candidate degrees, and 17 are former instructors of higher educational institutions and the lecture bureau of the city party committee.(73)

The chief criticisms of last year in Belorussian party education, aside from the fact that 4,000 party members and candidates were not included (71), were that there was poor control over independent students and inefficient use of propagandists. Of 12,600 Communists studying independently, only 4,700 finished their study of the Short Course.(69) It is reported that some propagandists are inexperienced, seminars for them are poorly conducted, staff propagandists are often assigned to serve as rayon committee instructors instead of performing their own function, and many partkabinety are closed for long periods of time. These shortcomings are supposed to be corrected in the current year.(70)

#### Estonian SSR

There are no total figures for persons engaged in political education in Estonia this year. In 1949 - 1950, there were 16,000 Communists and over 15,000 nonparty people in 435 political schools, 645 circles for study of the Short Course, 223 circles for study of the biographies of Lenin and Stalin (74), 47 evening party schools, and 2 evening universities of Marxism-Leninism.(75) Some 3,000 Communists and over 2,000 nonparty people studied independently, "the basic method of political study."(75)

The Republic Party School under the TsK KP(b) of Estonia trained 85 persons this year. Grades improved after the TsK VKP(b) and the Eighth Plenum of the TsK KP(b) of Estonia criticized the work of the TsK KP(b) of Estonia, and the number of "khorosho" (good) and "otlichno" (excellent) grades increased by 80-85 percent in this year's class.(76)

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During the summer and September of 1950, over 1,200 propagandists received training in 3-month, one-month, and 2-week courses.(77)

In Tallin, about 10,000 persons, including 2,900 women, are included in the party education system. There are 876 propagandists and consultants, compared with the 513 of last year, and about 300 of them took 3-month and 2-week courses during the summer and September.(78) The Tallin Evening University of Marxism-Leninism began work on 1 September. The first course has 500 students including 180 party members and candidates and 35 Komsomols.(79)

The chief criticism appearing in the Estonian press is poor work with propagandists. The Tallin city committee and other city and rayon committees have not provided adequate seminar studies for propagandists, attendance at summer courses was very poor (25-40 percent), and not once did the Tallin committee hold a meeting for instructors of the 3-month course for propagandists.(77) In Tartu and in uyezds [now rayons] of southern Estonia, attendance at 2-week courses for propagandists was very poor, largely because study conditions were difficult. Only a small number of students could get seats in classrooms; part-kabinety closed at 2000 hours, and students had to study in their dormitories, most rooms of which had no tables. Students could not get books, and partkabinety did not lend out books, even for use during the hours they were closed. The Agitation and Propaganda Section of the Tartu City Committee did not secure paper for students until the course was almost over nor check on the preparedness of lecturers.(77)

#### Georgian SSR

Figures for party education in the Georgian SSR are restricted almost entirely to the city of Tbilisi. The Republic Party School has graduated 437 persons, 141 of them this year.(80) By decision of the TsK KP(b) of Georgia, one-month courses were held in July for 350 rural propagandists. These constituted "less than one fourth" the total number of rural propagandists, so rayon party committees must conduct lectures and reports for propagandists on questions of party history, historical and dialectical materialism, and the international position of the USSR.(81)

In Tbilisi last year, 36,155 Communists, or over 88 percent of the city party organization, took part in various forms of political education.(82) With over 6,000 Komsomols and nonparty people in addition, the total number engaged in party education was 42,533.(83) There were 207 political schools, 263 circles studying the biographies of Lenin and Stalin, and 442 circles for the study of party history, 22 of them of the higher type, instructing 14,340 Communists. Over 15,000 persons studied independently.(82) During the summer, 480 leaders of political schools and circles took courses under the city party committee; and the school year began on 2 October with 217 political schools, 106 circles for study of the biographies of Lenin and Stalin, 427 basic type circles for party history, 10 rayon evening party schools, various seminars for party and soviet workers, and the Evening University of Marxism-Leninism with its five affiliates.(84) According to preparations there were to be 13,400 Communists in political schools; 12,300 studying independently; 815 in seminars; 360 in evening party schools; and about 1,300 party and nonparty people in the Evening University of Marxism-Leninism. Along with these it was planned to draw over 1,900 Komsomols and more than 6,500 nonparty people into the party education system.(83) Whether these plans were met has not yet been indicated in the press. Attendance at some opening classes in political schools and circles was reported poor. The same was true in some general-education schools for illiterates in Tbilisi, where study programs and textbooks were not fully supplied.(85)

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In the South Osetian Autonomous Oblast, 70 rural propagandists took 2-week courses under the oblast committee, while 34 propagandists took similar courses under the Staliniri city party committee.(86) In the Abkhaz ASSR, 96 percent of party people participated in political education last year, 2,980 of them studying independently.(82)

Shortcomings of last year included assignment of semiliterates to political schools instead of general-education schools(82), unsatisfactory control over independent students, and poor attendance. Some Communists took advantage of the absence of checking by rayon party committees and failed to attend the Tbilisi Evening University of Marxism-Leninism and its affiliates. For this they were excluded.(83)

#### Karelo-Finnish SSR

The party education system of the Karelo-Finnish SSR included over 14,500 persons last year. Of these, 4,300 Communists studied independently. "A majority of political schools and circles completed their study plans," but there were shortcomings. Of 465 circles for the study of party history, only 375 completed their programs, and ideological content was low, due to poor selection and control of propagandists. Many Communists studying independently did not finish their individual plans because of insufficient control and assistance from city and rayon party committees. It was reported that there were not enough lectures and consultations, and many rayon committees did not conduct adequate seminars, "the prime condition for raising the level of party propaganda."(87)

This year, for the second time, summer courses were conducted under the republic central committee, where 450 leaders of political schools and circles were trained. When the school year began, 1,500 propagandists were ready to start their work.(87) Summer courses under the Petrozavodsk and Sortavala city committees were reported poorly attended, however; some evenings only 40 to 50 percent of the students appeared.(88)

In Petrozavodsk, last year, 4,880 party members and candidates and over 1,200 nonparty people studied in the party education system. The number engaged in independent study included over 30 percent of the city party organization.(89) But 370 Communists did not participate at all, and about 400 did not finish their programs in political schools and circles nor take part in final studies. The chief reason for this was attributed to poor leadership by primary organizations and the bureau of the city committee.(90) Independent study was also poorly conducted. Of about 2,000 officially so engaged in Petrozavodsk, it was revealed that less than 1,000 were actually studying.(91)

In the present school year in Petrozavodsk, there are 365 political schools and circles; over 1,000 Communists are studying independently; and the number of students in the Evening University of Marxism-Leninism has increased to 350.(92)

Beginning studies in party education showed that many primary party organizations were better prepared than last year, but many were repeating the same mistakes; and party organizations were urged to exert more control, particularly over independent students.(90)

#### Kazakh SSR

Last year, 280,256 persons, 212,192 of them Communists, or 93.5 percent of all republic Communists, participated in party education in the Kazakh SSR. The quality of work was reported to be generally good. All 17 universities of Marxism-Leninism, 268 rayon party schools, and 6,872 circles for the study of party history and biographies of Lenin and Stalin completed their plans. Lecture propaganda was improved; 9,114 lectures were given on party history, philosophy, and political economy.(93) More than 36,000 persons were engaged in independent political study.(94)

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During the summer, the third class of 283 students completed its work in the Republic Party School under the TsK KP(b) of Kazakhstan.(95) Courses for propagandists were also conducted, but there was criticism of attendance. In Karaganda Oblast, for instance, only 264 persons had been drawn into propagandist work out of the 1,158 Communists with higher or incomplete higher education. In Kokchetav, only 15 percent of the propagandists appeared for their first studies; and seminar work was at a low level in propagandist courses in Pavlodar.(96) There were 14,000 propagandists in the republic last year. Regular seminars were conducted for them, and improvement in this work is called for this year. The TsK KP(b) of Kazakhstan ordered 5-day propagandist seminars in preparation for the new school year. The central committee of the republic party organization trained 450 leaders of propagandist seminars, and rayon committees are to utilize them effectively. In the course of the new school year, 2- and 3-day seminars for rural propagandists are to be held in November, January, and March; and in cities, where meetings do not involve leave from work, propagandists are to attend seminars once or twice a month.(97)

This year in Kazakhstan, 11,868 circles and political schools, 275 rayon party schools, and 17 universities of Marxism-Leninism are operating; and 95.5 percent of the republic's Communists are occupied in various forms of political study.(98)

There are no over-all figures for party education in the city of Alma-Ata. Some 400 propagandists took 2-week courses under the city committee (99); and the Evening University of Marxism-Leninism got off to a good start. In the past 5 years the number of its students has increased 15 times, and last year there were about 3,000 students.(100) In the first course this year there are 1,230 students.(101)

#### Kirgiz SSR

Information appearing in the press on party education in the Kirgiz SSR is very scanty. No over-all figures are given for the republic nor for the city of Frunze. Among other activities undertaken, the Kirgiz State Publishing House has published works of Lenin and Stalin in the Kirgiz language for the new school year.(102)

The two-year Party School under the republic central committee graduated 440 persons, while training 268 additional people in 9-month courses. This year, 147 (including 34 women) completed the 2-year course and 35 the 9-month course. Of those completing the 2-year program, 92 were Kirgiz. The school has a library of 55,000 volumes, and every year it receives 5,000-6,000 new books. Some 150 students have been accepted for the new year, and a group of 20 translators has been set up to translate the works of "the founders of Marxism-Leninism." Forty party and Komsomol workers are being trained in 9-month courses. (103)

In Frunze Oblast, 1,120 propagandists took summer courses under the oblast and city committees.(104) In the city of Frunze there are 1,044 propagandists and consultants, 70 percent of whom have higher or incomplete higher education. Some 723 have from 3 to 5 years' propagandist experience. The Evening University of Marxism-Leninism opened in 1939 and has trained "hundreds of party and nonparty Bolsheviks" [sic]. In the last 2 years the Evening University has graduated 350 persons. In the first course this year there are 400 students, almost half of whom have higher and incomplete higher education. There are 300 students in the second course. About 6,000 persons have begun their studies in over 400 circles for party history in Frunze. There are 126 political schools. Almost 3,000 persons are studying independently.(105)

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Latvian SSR

In the last school year in the system of party education 31,225 party members and candidates and many nonparty people were occupied with political studies in the Latvian SSR. There were 2,327 propagandists leading political schools and circles.(106) There were about 500 political schools. About 9,000 Communists were engaged in independent study, but only a little more than half of them fulfilled their individual study plans, because of poor control by party organizations.(107)

During the summer, over 1,100 propagandists were trained. The republic party central committee conducted one-month courses for rural propagandists which trained 140 directors of political schools, 200 leaders of circles for the study of party history, and 67 leaders of propagandist seminars; 720 propagandists were trained by city party committees.(106)

The new school year began in October, and figures given vary considerably. In August, plans were made for 70 evening party schools, about 500 political schools over 1,000 circles for the study of party history, and 12,500 independent students in the republic.(107) In mid-October, in connection with rural party education, reference was made to 61 evening party schools under rayon committees, over 900 political schools, 587 basic and higher-type circles for the study of party history, and 172 circles for the study of the biographies of Lenin and Stalin. Over 14,000 nonparty active workers of Latvian kolkhoz villages are participating.(108) Another reference states that there are more than 2,100 persons in 65 evening party schools.(109)

Students have been selected for the first course of the Republic Party School; and 150, most of them secretaries of rayon committees and chairmen of rayon soviet executive committees, have begun their studies.(110)

This year, 300 new partkabinety have been set up in the republic, and a seminar for librarians in these study rooms was held in Riga.(111)

No over-all figures are given for the city of Riga. Some 600 persons finished 2-week courses for propagandists under city party committees.(112) The Evening University of Marxism-Leninism with its nine affiliates has over 3,000 students. To assure better control by rayon committees over their attendance, the students are being grouped according to rayons.(113) In Daugavpils Evening University of Marxism-Leninism there are 370 students.(114)

Lithuanian SSR

There are no over-all figures for party education in Lithuanian SSR. Last year, there were 1,160 circles for study of the Short Course, 38 of them of the higher type, and more than 9,000 persons studied independently.(115)

This year, in the Lithuanian Railroad System there are 115 political schools, 130 circles for study of the Short Course, and 150 circles for study of the biographies of Lenin and Stalin. Almost 8,000 party and nonparty members are studying in these groups, and over 500 are studying independently. Some 452 propagandists have been trained to direct political schools and circles, and there are seven partkabinety at principle centers.(116)

In Vil'nyus, 14,000 persons are engaged in party education, 6,000 of them nonparty members. Last year, there were 100 political schools, 241 circles for the study of party history, 145 circles for study of the biographies of Lenin and Stalin, and 4 evening party schools. There were 800 students in the Evening University of Marxism-Leninism, and many Communists studied independently. This year, there are 134 political schools, 79 circles for study of the biographies of Lenin and Stalin, and 265 circles for the study of party history,

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including 40 of the higher type. There is an evening party school in each of the five city rayons. About 2,000 Communists are studying independently.(117) The Vil'nyus Evening University of Marxism-Leninism has 600 students this year; since it began, it has graduated 1,469 persons.(118) Among last year's shortcomings noted in the press were low attendance and the large number of students who dropped out before the end of the school year.

#### Moldavian SSR

In the Moldavian party education system last year, there were three evening universities of Marxism-Leninism, 69 evening party schools, over 600 circles for study of the Short Course, 160 circles for study of the biographies of Lenin and Stalin, and 460 political schools.(119) However, it was reported that 2,000 Communists were not drawn into party education, and 43 schools and circles did not complete their study plans. Some propagandists reportedly conducted their work at a low ideological level, and independent study was poorly organized and directed.(120)

During the summer, over 2,000 propagandists were trained in courses under the republic central committee and city committees of the party.(121) It was noted that seminars for propagandists were not properly conducted last year. They met irregularly and did not complete their study plans. This year they are to meet at least once every 10 days in accord with the study plan; they are to be held separately for leaders of first- and second-year political schools and circles; and they are to be so organized as to keep the propagandists two or three subjects ahead of their students. The press is called upon to aid propagandists; the republic newspapers, Sovetskaya Moldaviya and Moldova sochialiste, are to carry descriptions of the work of leading propagandists.(122)

No over-all figures have been given for party education in the republic and those for the city of Kishinev vary somewhat. On 1 October, it was reported that there were 1,043 Communists in the Kishinev Evening University of Marxism-Leninism; 1,570 were studying independently; 302 were in evening party schools; 1,839 persons were in circles for the study of party history; and 480 were in circles for study of the biographies of Lenin and Stalin. For the intelligentsia and nonparty active workers there were 131 circles for the study of party history, 83 political schools, and 67 circles for study of the biographies of Lenin and Stalin.(121) On 24 October, an over-all figure for the city was given of 13,000 Communists, Komsomols, and nonparty people, with 2,218 in the Evening University of Marxism-Leninism and 300 in rayon evening party schools.(123)

The Evening University of Marxism-Leninism in Krasnoarmeyskiy City Rayon of Kishinev had considerable difficulty in getting enough students. On 25 August, there were only half as many admissions as called for in the plan, largely because it was reported, the rayon committee secretary and the head of the Agitation and Propaganda Section did not concern themselves personally with recruiting for party education. And, with no control by the rayon committee, accused Sovetskaya Moldaviya, secretaries of several large primary party organizations did not choose students for the Evening University, preferring to keep students in their own circles, some for the second year, to show full "participation" in local political studies.(124) There may also be some questions as to whether there was sufficient interest on the part of individual students to want to study at the Evening University.

#### Tadzhik SSR

No over-all figures are given for party education in the Tadzhik SSR, but the press reveals much criticism of last year's conduct of party education. Many party organizations got a late start and could not complete their study

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programs. According to the republic press in Stalinabad Oblast this was the case with almost half the political schools and circles and the Evening University of Marxism-Leninism, and work with independent students was badly organized. The Stalinabad Oblast party committee and rayon committees were not sufficiently interested in political education.(125) For the new school year, plans were made to draw up to 24,000 Communists and nonparty people of the oblast into various forms of party education, and 920 propagandists were selected, of whom 500 took special preparatory courses.(126)

The Two-year Republic Party School graduated 98 persons this year, "85 of them of the local nationality." In addition, 37 finished 9-month courses. Since its establishment in 1946, 304 persons have taken the 2-year course, and about 200 party and soviet workers have completed 9-month courses. There were five chairs (kafedry) in 1949 - 1950 (127), and 67,600 rubles were spent on books for the library.(128) A new department has been added this year for training translators and editors of political literature. There are 30 people in this department, all with journalistic experience, and their study conditions are the same as those for other students.(127)

The Stalinabad Evening University of Marxism-Leninism had 600 students last year. Four new affiliates were opened: under the Tadzhik Affiliate of the Academy of Sciences, under the republic committees of the medical workers' and art workers' trade unions, and under the Administration of the Tadzhik Civil Air Fleet. According to reports attendance last year was poor, averaging 72 percent, and this was due to poor control by primary party organizations.(129) It is still maintained that the university is very popular, that there were 452 applications for 350 openings in this year's first class; but on 4 September, when the session began, rooms were not provided for all classes, and instructors were not adequately prepared.(130)

General-education schools for Communists received considerable attention in the Tadzhik system of party education. In some rural areas, in the past, illiterates were attached directly to teachers; but this led to difficulties "in controlling this form of study," so schools for semiliterate and illiterate Communists are now set up under village (kishlak) soviets.(131) In Kurgan-Tyubinskiy Rayon, this summer, 29 Communists completed the tenth grade of the evening general-education school. Among them were "workers of the rayon party committee and the rayon soviet executive committee, directors of industrial enterprises, and secretaries of primary party organizations." The rayon committee pays particular attention to the work of the school and noted that some Communists did not attend classes nor complete their school work. The rayon committee bureau worked out concrete measures for improving the work of the school and authorized the Agitation and Propaganda Section to staff the seventh, eighth, and ninth grades of the school and to devote special attention to getting party members of local nationalities -- Tadzhik and Uzbek -- into the school.(131)

In the Gorno-Badakhshan Autonomous Oblast, last year, 102 out of 114 political schools and circles completed their study programs. Over 2,000 persons received instruction. However, "the struggle against remnants of the feudal past" is poorly conducted; many parents refuse to allow their daughters to attend the schools and husbands prevent their wives from attending. Anti-religious propaganda is generally weak.(126) \*

#### Ukrainian SSR

In the Ukrainian SSR this year, one million people are reported in the party education system. More than 50,000 propagandists, 90 percent of whom took training courses in the past 2 years, have gone to work in almost 1,000 evening-party schools, thousands of political schools, and "tens of thousands" of circles for study of the Short Course, biographies of Lenin and Stalin,

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political economy, and dialectical and historical materialism. There are 400,000 Communists studying independently, and 25,000 staff consultants have been chosen and approved.(132)

In the 1949 - 1950 school year, there were also over one million people in political education in the Ukraine in over 9,000 political schools, 15,000 circles for study of the biographies of Lenin and Stalin, "several thousand" circles for the study of party history, about 1,000 rayon party schools, and 19 evening universities of Marxism-Leninism.(133) Another source notes that students completed their study plans in 1,569 political schools -- a small percentage of the 9,000 referred to above -- 14,543 circles for study of the biographies of Lenin and Stalin, 10,828 circles for study of the Short Course, and 944 study groups in rayon evening party schools. "Thousands of political schools and circles and hundreds of study groups in rayon evening party schools" fulfilled the study plan for first-year studies.

However, there were shortcomings in party education. The first-year study plan was not fulfilled by 547 political schools, 518 circles studying the biographies of Lenin and Stalin, and 868 circles studying the Short Course. Some political schools and circles did not complete their second-year study plans, because party organizations were careless and in some places even cut short the study term. There were several criticisms of repetition in the same study courses, for example, one kolkhoz party organization allowed a circle studying the Short Course to begin with Chapter 1, go to Chapter 4, and then begin the next year with the same people again at Chapter 1.(134)

During the summer, about 5,500 persons took one-month courses for rural propagandists under oblast party committees, and about 11,000 propagandists were trained in 3-month courses under city committees.(134) There was some criticism of work with propagandists in various oblasts of the Ukraine. In Zaporozh'ye Oblast, for instance, propagandists were assigned to work which had nothing to do with their regular function -- checking on radiofication of settlements, etc. When asked why his propagandists were being used for this irregular work, the secretary of the Ordzhonikidzevskiy Rayon party committee replied that staff propagandists were not needed; he had many nonstaff propagandists but was short of instructors. [References in the press indicate that instructors of rayon party committees are "trouble shooters." Their function is to check on the political work of primary party organizations, to advise secretaries of primary organizations, and to report back to the rayon committee on progress by primary organizations.] As a result, the party education system was badly organized. The Agitation and Propaganda Section of the rayon party committee "controlled" organization by perusing lists of students sent to it by secretaries of primary organizations, and consequently many persons were assigned to circles for the study of party history which they had completed the previous year. There were similar occurrences in other rayons of the oblast, but rayon party committees are not aware of this, because their staff propagandists do not get out into party schools. These shortcomings are to be corrected this year, and oblast committees are to organize regular seminars for propagandists.(51)

In Kiev, there are 400 political schools this year with 6,000 students, 2,700 of them Communists. Over 25,000 persons have begun studies in circles for the study of party history, and 8,000 (2,700 of them Communists) are in circles for study of the biographies of Lenin and Stalin. In eight rayon evening schools there are 437 Communists. About 3,000 independent students heard beginning lectures in eight lecture halls. In all, there are 76,895 students, 8,000 more than last year, in the city system of party education, and 95 percent of them attended their first classes.(135)

The Kiev Evening University of Marxism-Leninism has 2,600 students in the first course and over 2,000 in the second. The Evening University has eight affiliates. Highly qualified instructors conduct studies twice a week. (133)

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In L'vov, a reported 1,000 persons were enrolled for the first course of the Evening University of Marxism-Leninism.(146) In Khar'kov, 1,600 city propagandists were trained in 3-month and 2-week courses in the Party Propaganda and Agitation Club of the oblast committee and the city committee.(136)

#### Uzbek SSR

Over 50,000 people are participating in party education in the cities of the Uzbek SSR. The number of higher-type circles has increased to 300, and there are about 500 circles for study of the biographies of Lenin and Stalin.(137) No over-all figures are given for rural party education. In the last school year, 839 political schools, 520 circles for study of party history, 836 circles for study of the biographies of Lenin and Stalin, and 51 evening party schools successfully completed their study programs. Over 20,000 Communists were instructed in them. Another 5,000 party members and candidates finished general-education schools. But serious shortcomings were reported. Of 1,759 second classes in political schools only about one half finished their study programs; of 2,123 first classes in political schools only half finished. The same was true of evening party schools and circles for the study of party history. Many independent students were not closely enough controlled and did not finish their study plans. Pravda Vostoka said that the reason for these deficiencies was the laxity of party organizations and committees.(138)

Much work was done in the summer to improve the work of propagandists. Oblast committees instructed 662 persons in one-month courses for rural propagandists; city committees trained 1,500 propagandists in 3-month courses. Over 1,000 rural and 1,000 city propagandists took 2-week courses in September. And during the summer, republic courses for propagandist seminar leaders turned out 217 persons.(138)

The Republic Party School under the TsK KP(b) of Uzbekistan, in the 4 years of its existence, has graduated two classes, a total of 459 persons. This year 195 persons finished the school, while 35 persons received instruction in the 9-month course.(139)

In Tashkent Oblast, there are 362 political schools, 722 circles studying the Short Course, and 160 circles for study of the biographies of Lenin and Stalin (140). In the city of Tashkent, there are 275 political schools, 8,000 persons are studying the Short Course in circles, and 7,000 are studying independently with the assistance of 538 consultants.(141) Figures for last year indicate that there were 258 political schools and 645 circles for study of the Short Course in which over 11,000 persons were instructed, while over 6,000 persons studied independently. Among the propagandists there were 676 party and soviet workers and secretaries of primary party organizations, 530 engineers and technicians, and 360 teachers. There were 23 regular seminars for propagandists.(142)

In the Tashkent Evening University of Marxism-Leninism there are 1,700 students.(137) Of the six other evening universities in the republic, those in Fergana, Andizhan, Bukhara, Kokand, and Namangan have been identified. Last year, over 2,500 persons studied in these evening universities. There were criticisms of poor attendance and dropping out. In the Fergana Evening University only 40 percent of the students attended classes in several months. The same was true in Andizhan and Namangan universities. In the Fergana, Andizhan, and Bukhara Evening Universities of Marxism-Leninism about 30 percent of the students dropped out, while 20 percent ceased to attend the Tashkent Evening University.(143)

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## CONCLUSION

The figures given above for the current year include people formally registered in the various forms of party education. It should perhaps be noted that in the enthusiasm engendered by the publicity given to the beginning of the school year and under the pressure from higher party committees to enroll large numbers of students, the party organizations might naturally be expected to give as glowing a picture as possible of their efforts in setting up the party education system. But on the basis of past experience it may be concluded that as the routine school year progresses, as students become bored with their studies and incompetent propagandists, and as party organizations find it difficult to check on the work of the large number of students they have enrolled, the realities of the situation overtake the initial optimism; and it may be expected that more and more press items will be devoted to shortcomings in the conduct of party education.

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